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STATE FOR DRL, IO AND EEB, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS  
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SUBJECT: FRANCE CONSIDERING HUMAN RIGHT TO BROADBAND

**¶1.** (SBU) In a speech set for October 13, President Sarkozy will announce a major policy initiative on the future of the digital economy that may include support for a human right to internet broadband access.

**¶2.** (SBU) In discussions September 30 - October 1 with Ambassador David A. Gross, U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy, French officials said that final preparations are underway for a major announcement by President Sarkozy planned for October 13 that will lay out France's vision for the next generation of the information society.

**¶3.** (SBU) The President's initiative represents the first major policy input by France's State Secretary for the Digital Economy, Eric Besson, and this package of proposals will seek to underscore France's leading role in Europe on internet and digital issues. Sarkozy's text is being drafted by the Elysee and none of our contacts would guess as to its final content. However, one concept they said was likely to be included was that broadband internet access be deemed a human right.

**¶4.** (SBU) We provide this heads-up and will report additional details as we learn them, cognizant of the potential impact any new developments, such as the call for the creation of a human right to broadband internet access, may have for the U.S. and global economy.

STAPLETON